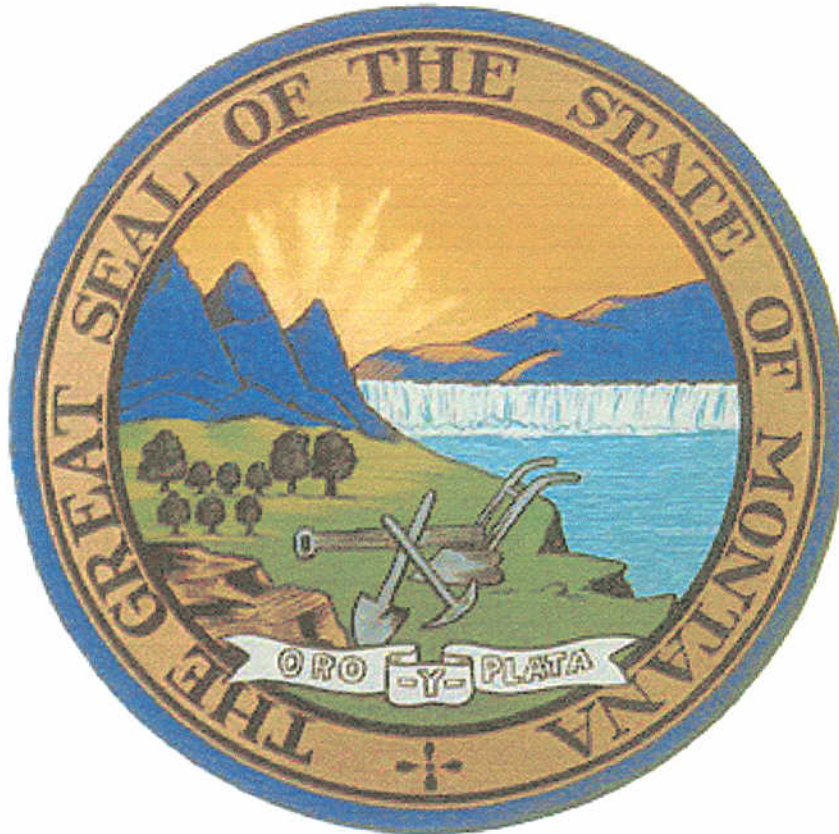


MONTANA DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PLAN



VOLUME V FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLAN

ANNEX H

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

I. PURPOSE STATEMENT

This annex provides the guidelines for ensuring the expeditious delivery of emergency food supplies to the public during those periods when the normal food supply systems are determined to be dysfunctional to the point that the real and immediate needs of the public concerning food distribution will not be met.

I. SITUATIONS:

A. There exists, approximately, at least one month's supply of food in the wholesale/retail/restaurant food chain in Montana (homes 1 week, retail 1 week, wholesale 2 weeks, transit 1 week, plus restaurants).

A. Supplemental commodities (USDA) are warehoused in Helena, under the management of Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) Programs.

A. An additional, smaller supply of food exists in the form of those USDA foodstuffs at schools under the control of the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

A. A system is already in place to quickly and legitimately redirect food distribution in emergency situations, whereby USDA commodities under the control of SRS can sustain the public until the emergency recedes or a more permanent redistribution system can be put in place. Please refer to SRS Instruction FDIR 91-01, Attachment No. 1 to this Annex, for a concise description of the "Policies and Procedures for Emergency/Disaster issuance of FDIR Commodity Foods."

A. Need-based programs already exist for Food Stamps, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) vouchers, for which disaster victims may be eligible.

I. ASSUMPTIONS

A. One month is sufficient time to assess damage to, and plan recovery of, Montana's food distribution systems (wholesale/retail and commodities).

B. Except during a nuclear attack scenario, given the amount of food within Montana's food distribution systems, any restructuring of the

infrastructure (either the wholesale-retail-commodities or the cash-Food Stamps systems) would prove counterproductive to response and recovery efforts.

A. The most effective response, on a food distribution level, to a non-nuclear disaster is state government enhancement and facilitation of the existing systems.

I. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES

A. 7 CFR 250.43 Disaster organizations

A. 7 CFR 250.8(e) Food Distribution & Food Stamp Program operations

A. The U.S. Uniform Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

A. The Montana Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 50-31 MCA

A. Policies and Procedures for Emergency/Disaster issuance of FDIR Commodity Foods, SRS Instruction FDIR 91-01

I. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Commercial channels of food distribution: Local jurisdiction EOPs should be proactive and officials should work closely with local food distributors in order that Emergency Public Information concerning the availability of local commercial food supplies, the real basis of recovery, should be timely, accurate and as responsive to incident needs as possible.

A. Distressed, adulterated or contaminated food: During disasters and emergencies, large local food supplies can quickly and permanently become unsafe for human consumption through contamination by flood waters, transportation accidents, fire suppression activities or hazardous materials incidents. The embargo of food products on the basis of "good probable cause" is authorized by local health officials if voluntary agreements (per DHES forms ES 80 and ES 84) cannot be obtained, but the State DHES Food and Consumer Safety Bureau (444-2408) should be notified. Some FDA and USDA assistance, coordinated by the FCS Bureau, may be available when cooperation is not forthcoming on adequate disposal. Local health department personnel should direct all inquiries to the FCS Bureau.

A. Emergency Food Stamp Program: An integral part of the emergency food distribution system, please see Attachment C, this annex.

A. Emergency (USDA) Food Distribution: Procedures and criteria exist in 7 CFR 250 concerning how and when disaster organizations can

obtain approval for the two basic types of (USDA) food distribution, congregate meals and household food. Exhaustion or threat of exhaustion of food supplies, the inability to gain access to any available food supplies, and inability to pay all enter into any distribution equation. State and local emergency management, shelter management and volunteer organization personnel should familiarize themselves with pertinent documents and develop a working relationship with appropriate local welfare and human services departments and state government agencies and personnel as an ongoing part of disaster preparedness. USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Helena, Montana Field Office, 449-5249 : MT Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau, Food Distribution Section, 444-4545 and Policy and Program Management Bureau (for Emergency Food Stamp information).

1. Congregate feeding: The criteria for the distribution of USDA items for congregate feeding of meals to people in disaster shelters is covered under 7 CFR 240.43 (b).

1. Household distribution: This component of the emergency food distribution system, per 7 CFR 240.43 (c), should be seen as a final option which will only be considered after all other options, including not only congregate feeding but also cash purchase and emergency food stamp distribution (see Emergency Social Services Annex under this topic), have been exhausted. An instruction from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the USDA dated 11-3-82 states that this option will be implemented only after determinations concerning disruptions of commercial channels of food distribution are made by "Regional Offices (of the FNS/USDA) in coordination with their State counterparts."

A. Disaster Food Management: It is important that volunteer organizations and local DES Coordinators work together to develop good Food Distribution Annexes and that all concerned personnel are familiar with the appropriate sections of 7 CFR 250 in order that prompt and efficient response is taken when needed, **since local disaster organizations must make "application for the receipt and distribution of donated foods in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section".** (7 CFR 250.43 Disaster Organizations)

I. STATE LEVEL SOP CHECKLIST

A. Notify American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer (VOAD) agencies immediately upon identifying a food distribution need.

A. Alert the Food Distribution Section Supervisor of the Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau (444-4545) and the Chief of the Policy and Program Management Bureau (444-4545) of SRS of the possible need for their resources. Have the Food Distribution Section Supervisor coordinate any activities with the Division of School Food Services of the Office of Public Instruction (444-2505).

A. Alert Deputy Director, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (444-2544) that Food Distribution Annex is being activated if the WIC and Child Nutrition people in State Health Department need notification.

A. Refer local coordinator to applicable 7 CFR 250 citations in order that federal criteria are known locally and can be documented as to being met, prior to request for USDA resources.

I. ATTACHMENTS

A. 7 CFR 250.43 Disaster Organizations

A. FNS Instruction 708-5 dated 11-3-82, signed by Robert E. Leard

A. Policies and Procedures for Emergency/Disaster Issuance of FDIR Commodity Foods

ATTACHMENT A
(7 CFR 250.43 Disaster Organizations)

ATTACHMENT B

(FNS Instruction 708-5 dated 11-3-82, signed by Robert E. Leard)

ATTACHMENT C
(Policies and Procedures for Emergency/Disaster
Issuance of FDIR Commodity Foods)